

the Japanese patent application corresponding to the present application (now registered as JP3349677). That reference was deemed by the Japanese patent examiner not to disclose the invention claimed in that application.

A copy of the published paper Kasai *et al.* (2000), *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* 204, 53-59, which discusses the preparation of acid-treated yeast cell wall (AYC), is attached.

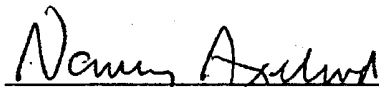
Ishiguro provides no motivation, with the requisite reasonable expectation of success, to modify its methods to achieve the methods of the instant claims. Therefore, for at least the above arguments, the reference does not render the instant claims obvious (*In re Vaeck*, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (CAFC 1991)). The rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the preceding amendments and arguments, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Should any additional fee be deemed due, please charge such fee to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261, and notify the undersigned accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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